



La Crosse Area Planning Committee

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Serving the La Crosse/La Crescent Urbanized Area

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Minutes of Committee on Transit and Active Transportation Meeting, January 9, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the CTAT held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 3:00 pm in room 1107 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center, 212 6th St N, La Crosse, WI.

Members Present: Francis Schelfhout, Sandy Sechrest, Cathy Van Maren, Krista Heinz (ph), Jim Longhurst, Adam Lorentz, Bob Fisher, Carolyn Dvorak, Kurt Wayne, Jack Zabrowski, Rick Diermeier, Ginny Loehr, Jackie Eastwood.
Excused: Charlie Handy. **Staff and Others Present:** Voni Vegar, Darrell Washington, Peter Fletcher, Jackie Eastwood.

Peter Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Introductions were done.

1) Approval of minutes of the November 14, 2019 CTAT Meeting:

Adam Lorentz motioned to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting; Francis Schelfhout seconded. All were in favor.

2) Letter of support for La Crosse Bike Share Program:

Peter Fletcher presented a draft letter of support from the CTAT for the Bike Share Program, asking if anyone had any comments or changes they'd like to make. Bob Fisher asked about who'd be responsible for the bikes, etc. to which Carolyn Dvorak responded that Zagster would be managing the infrastructure and that La Crosse Neighborhoods as a non-profit would be acting as the funding pass-through. Many organizations are contributing.

Rick Diermeier motioned to approve the letter of support as presented; Kurt Wayne seconded. All were in favor.

3) Routing and signage for recreational bike rides:

Rick Diermeier provided an overview of what has been done for signing and mapping recreational bike ride routes in Washara County and thought that something similar could be developed in La Crosse County. He has talked with several people, adding that he'd take the lead on such a project and that ORA would help fund it. He just wanted to address the CTAT for feedback. Cathy Van Maren stated she'd like to encourage this to happen and described what is done in the Netherlands.

Jim Longhurst explained that bike rides used to be published on paper but have since been converted to all digital and can be found on the Explore La Crosse site. He was in favor of developing physical maps again.

Francis Schelfhout stated that to expand funding opportunities, Juneau County tried to make sure there was a commuter benefit.

4) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):

Peter Fletcher stated that all applications need to be submitted to WisDOT by 5:00 p.m. on January 24, 2020. We will likely have five projects to rank at the March CTAT meeting: three from La Crosse County and two from the city of La Crosse. Francis Schelfhout added that the WisDOT regional office will first determine if the applications have an eligible sponsor and eligible project elements. Resolutions of support, which are due in April, will be reviewed last. After the MPOs send in their ranked lists, a TAP committee made up of many agencies will reprioritize the non-TMA projects. Awards should be expected in September 2020.

5) Amendment of the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project list:

Peter Fletcher stated that the TIP amendment has been available for public comment and that the transit and West Ave projects may be of interest to the committee, especially since the West Ave projects were moved out one year. Cathy Van Maren informed everyone that the city was holding a public information meeting on January 16 from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. to discuss the West Ave projects.

6) Other updates and information items:

Adam Lorentz stated that MTU will be breaking ground in April for charging stations and a transformer for the electric buses and other vehicles. MTU will take possession of two full-electric buses in the fall of 2020 and six clean diesel buses (five for La Crosse and one for La Crescent) in 2021. MTU has a 10-year goal of having an all-electric fleet.

Jim Longhurst announced that Wisconsin Active Together will be hosting a get-together for advocacy groups. The event will take place on February 6, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the La Crosse YMCA. There will be a grant-writing session and networking opportunities.

Krista Heinz from Couleecap announced that their Work 'n Wheels program has increased its eligibility income limits from 150% of the poverty line to 200%. The program assists eligible applicants get a no- or low-interest loan to purchase a new or repair an existing vehicle.

Jack Zabrowski stated that the city is reviewing a survey bid for an easement through the Rivercrest mobile home park. The easement would be used for the routing of the Route 1 regional bicycle route and the MRT.

Cathy Van Maren stated that the city is looking to support an effort by Solutionary Rail to electrify America's railroads. She would like to bring this matter to the next CTAT meeting.

Francis Schelfhout announced that Michael Erickson will be taking over for Tom Koprowski as the TAP coordinator. Mr. Erickson will continue as the STP-Urban coordinator also.

7) Future agenda items:

- TAP projects ranking
- Electrification of rail

8) Adjourn; Next meeting TBA:

Sandy Sechrest motioned to adjourn at 3:47 pm; Jack Zabrowski seconded. All were in favor.